



# **Seattle Human Rights Commission**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Seattle Human Rights Commission Calling Upon the City of Seattle and Community Members to Support Africatown's Restoration Efforts**

**For information contact:**

Marcel Baugh  
404-791-4737  
marcel.baugh13@gmail.com

Margaret Babayan  
206-795-5358  
margaret.babayan@gmail.com

Danielle Wallace  
678-463-3390  
daniellemarie710@gmail.com

SEATTLE – The Seattle Human Rights Commission (the “SHRC”) calls for broad community investment in the restoration of Africatown after recent accounts of burglary and racially-charged vandalism documented at Africatown’s Center for Education and Innovation in Columbia City on March 20-23, 2016. As a welcoming and valuable community space, Africatown should be restored so it can continue its role in promoting human rights, including the rights to education and freedom from discrimination.

Africatown’s is an essential part of the community that provides youth with prosocial after-school activities and summer programs. These community-driven programs emerged to close the opportunity gap created by racially disproportionate discipline in Seattle’s schools and other structurally violent institutional practices which target youth of color.

Africatown serves hundreds of children and their families. Damage to their facility, IT system, and security system will cost approximately \$10,000 to repair. Community-led efforts to restore Africatown’s security, educational programs, and facility are underway. Many community members and organizations have donated funds to the restoration effort.

Community members and organizations are asked to pledge their support at:

[https://connect.clickandpledge.com/Organization/umojapeacecenter/#sthash.aiFYjs7N&st\\_refDoMain=www.facebook.com&st\\_refQuery=/](https://connect.clickandpledge.com/Organization/umojapeacecenter/#sthash.aiFYjs7N&st_refDoMain=www.facebook.com&st_refQuery=/)

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